

Belgian Hare Most Popular and Widely Known Rabbit in America is a Cross Between Patagonian and Flemish Giant

The announcement appearing in these columns a week ago to the effect that space would be devoted to "Rabbits and Their Care," for the benefit of the breeders and fanciers of this district, has been received with acclaim and from the numerous commendatory communications received in the last few days we are convinced that the department will meet with popular favor and at the same time render invaluable aid to all interested parties.

Queries for the Rabbit Editor should reach us not later than Thursday night and they together with their answers will appear on the following Sunday, signed by the initials of the sender. Feel perfectly free to use these columns for any perplexing questions that may arise. The answer to the question will not only be for your benefit but it may be the same thing that is causing some other raiser trouble.

Today's article treats of the Belgian Hare, one of the best known varieties of the rabbit family.

THE BELGIAN HARE.
This rabbit has been the most popular and widely known in America for years. The name "Hare" was given this rabbit because it resembles the wild hare in the head, shape of ears, body and eyes. It is claimed by many to be a cross between the Patagonian and Flemish Giant. It originally came from France, Belgium and Flanders. The first records show the Belgian to have had neither type or color. The English fanciers having developed it into its present high standard. The Belgian Hare is the smartest rabbit of all and is the only breed of the rabbit family that can be taught any tricks.

The first importation to America came from England in 1896, 1899 and 1900. During this period the great rabbit boom was on. The interest all over the United States was at its height. Prices charged for fine specimens were ridiculous, ranging from \$50 to \$200. Belgian Hare meat was served in dining cars and fashionable hotels and the prices charged were unreasonable. But the boom soon died out on account of the exorbitant prices. Today the Belgian is again a most popular rabbit. Great improvement has been made in the past few years. The Belgian can not stand a lot of severe weather. It has been inbred so much that it has lost most of its vitality. It is one of the weakest constituted we have when disease of any kind overtakes it and it cannot stand dampness at all. The present high cost of meat has created a great demand for Belgian meat and in South Bend several groceries and meat markets have placed them on sale, but cannot

supply the demand. Local rabbit breeders are as yet unable to supply the local markets.
The skins of the Belgian Hare are also in big demand, being made into near-seal hats and other articles of clothing. The pelts of an eight-month-old hare are the best, rich in color, flexible when tanned and having a wearing quality that is satisfactory. Locally there are very few full-blooded Belgian Hares. Most all stock has been interbred with Flemish to produce larger Belgians. This is a great mistake. Experts have developed both breeds to their high standards and it's poor policy for a beginner to try to produce something experienced fanciers have made a study of for years.

The government is now and has for some time been sending out literature urging the raising of rabbits in the "back yard," and recommends the Belgian as being the best breed for such an undertaking. This recommendation, coming from such a source, and being based on scientific facts and actual experiments, will, no doubt, have the effect of pushing the Belgian business if the beginners will adopt as their slogan (especially when in doubt) common sense. I remember reading that statement in a book on rabbit raising written by one who is now in the army.

COMMON SENSE AND RABBITS.
Common sense tells you, or should, that it is foolish to raise utility rabbits. If you think this statement sounds wild, think it over and take a good utility buck and doe and start out and breed properly, and, of course, you will not admit that you would do any other way, and see what you would have in a few generations. Why, if you would use common sense and take into

consideration color, type and size, you would have a strain of cracker-jack stock and you would have plenty of utility stuff, for there are plenty of wry tails and now and then a white spot on the foot will come without breeding for it—for reversion to type is a law of nature.

Common sense also tells you to give your rabbits plenty of room, two and one-half feet deep by four feet long, by at least 20 inches high. It is small enough and I contend that no human can successfully raise rabbits in a hutch that is so constructed that he has to get down on his hand and knees to look into it.

Common sense tells you that your doe will do better and be more fully matured at seven months than at six and still more at eight months, and if we would only restrain ourselves and wait until the last mentioned age we would see a difference in size and would also, I contend, disprove the idea held forth by so many that when you get color you have to sacrifice size or vice versa.

Common sense also tells us that any doe will mother six rabbits better than she will 16, as only eight can be sucked at one time, and after one or two of the little babies have been cheated a few times he will be starting life with a handicap that will be hard to overcome. Grit your teeth and kill a couple of litters down to six and note the difference.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Q. Will you kindly give me a receipt for Hassenpfeffer? When the saloons were running I saw they served it quite often.—Mrs. E. B. K.
A. The name of it has been changed since the war and is now called "Liberty Rabbit." Clean rabbit and cut meat in small parts. Lay in vinegar over night, dilute with water. Put a few whole peppers, whole cloves, a few bay leaves in vinegar to season. In morning brown tablespoonful butter in four with small size onion. Then put rabbit in browned butter. Add salt and pepper to taste. Add vinegar. Cook meat till done on slow fire.—Mrs. N.

Q. What is the best winter feed for Flemish Giants?
A. Clover hay, oats and corn and mash once a week. The mash is made of potato peelings, carrots, turnips, cabbage and beef. Boil together, drain off all water and mix with bran till almost dry.

Q. How can one tell if a Flemish is full blooded?
A. Buy a book of standards. This will give you the desired information.

Q. What are the requirements for registration?
A. All rabbits must come up to standard in weight, color and free from all disease.

Q. Is there any special feed for mother does?

A. Feed heavier and a small quantity of greens; no raw cabbage. Keep hutches clean.

Q. What remedy is best for ear canker?

A. Pour a few drops of sweet oil in ear and sprinkle with sulphur every other day until well.

Q. What is the right amount of young for each doe to raise?

A. Five is the right number and will save your doe. Some say more and some claim three is better.

Q. How old should the young be before taken away from the mother?

A. Opinions vary, two to three months. The best results are obtained from a three months' mothering.

Q. What amount of time should elapse before breeding again?

A. Let your doe have a rest of 30 days or more.

(P. R. H.)

Q. During the hot weather of July and August I lost about 20 young rabbits. Every day I would find two or three dead. All seemed to be healthy. What was the cause?

A. It may have been improper feeding, irregular and overfeeding or feeding too much greens, lack of fresh water and dirty hutches.

Q. Can you tell me the cause of sore hocks and a cure? I keep straw in my hutches.

A. A great many cases are caused from filthy hutches. Others have it bred into them. Remove rabbits to a dry hutch, cover completely with sawdust and hay. Feed oats sprinkled with flowers of sulphur, rub camphorated oil into affected parts.

Q. How should a hutch face? North, south, east or west?

A. Hutches should be free from drafts on three sides. The best exposure is the east. If protected from rain, snow or sleet any exposure is all right.

Q. What is the cause of white spots on the liver?

A. Improper and irregular feeding and overfeeding. The rabbit breathes hard. After becoming settled, it is a case of liver complaint and the rabbit might as well be killed.

(J. C.)

SOME APPETIZING DISHES.

Many different dishes can be prepared from rabbit meat if one knows how to prepare them. A good housewife should familiarize herself with different ways to prepare rabbit.

After rabbit has been skinned and cleaned it can be kept in winter a whole week by hanging in a cold place. Meat is better when it is frozen and is a week old. Rabbit meat can be kept in summer by laying meat in vinegar for from 12 to 24 hours.

Receipts For Sour Rabbit.

To 10 pounds rabbit meat fry out about three-fourths pound of bacon and a few onions. Put in deep kettle or large skillet. Then add rabbit meat cut into small pieces. Then add one pint cider or red wine, a few laurel and thyme leaves, pepper and salt to taste. Cook till meat is tender. This makes a healthy and delicious dish. If one were to get a portion of this rabbit in Belgium it

Georgia's Last Chance

By Olive Roberts Barton.

Life has always been a problem to Georgia, because it is to most people who have no money. But unlike other people who go on for ever feeling the lack of funds, and who also go on McLawber-like waiting for something to turn up, she determined to try and swing the wheel of fortune the other way and pour a golden shower into her empty lap.

Along with this, Georgia's ideas of marriage were built decidedly on a business foundation. Not that she had any contempt for romance, for one had only to look at her thoughtful brown eyes, creamy skin and wonderful wealth of coppery brown hair to realize that anyone so beautiful would easily be one of Cupid's first victims. But having had to depend so long upon her own resources, Georgia had learned the necessary lesson of not allowing her heart to run away with her head.

That was why she awakened one morning with a shocked realization that she had done something awful the night before. More explicitly it was this: the office forces of the Sims, Barker Company, of which he was a member, had had a picnic excursion to Flat Beach. They had outstayed the long twilight and she had done for a boatride with Dickie Rendshaw, the round face moon snail-benign approval upon the proceeding.

Dickie, Georgia had always confessed to herself, was a darling, and as he had taken occasion to propose to her on an average of twice a week for several months, she found it hardly rash time to react his earnest solicitations. "If only," she sighed, "he were a little better off and could offer me anything else but a flat out in Queens and a new suit every other year, I'd take him tomorrow. Poor Dickie! It's not his fault, only his misfortune, that he is poor. But we must suffer not only for our fault but for our misfortune, Dickie dear, so I can never marry you!"

But the night before, the water, the moon, the ardent pleading of Dickie—everything had seemed to destroy the ratio she had succeeded in fending off the marriage-versus-love proposition. And now would cost not less than \$100 per plate.

Next Sunday a receipt for rabbit goulash will be given and others by noted chefs of the country will appear from time to time that the public may become acquainted with the many appetizing dishes in which rabbit may be prepared. Watch for next Sunday's article.

E. W. L. Walkerton.—If you will give me a complete description of the doe and baby rabbits I may be able to help you out.

It came to her with shocking force that she had said yes. Oh, why had she consented to anything which made life a more continuation of the old struggle?

She sprang from bed and bathed and dressed hurriedly. A plan had popped into her head, a wild, unreasonable plan, but a possibility, and she was going to give it a trial before her courage waned.

Vacation lists were out, and she spoke for hers right away that day. Hurrying home, she pulled out a trunk she had never had occasion to use, an entire wardrobe sent her by an opulent relative, of discarded finery and turbulences, laces and satins and gewgaws affected only by the very rich, and which Georgia had hitherto had the good sense to realize she could not utilize in any way. But with a little two dollar a day dressmaker, in half a week Georgia had a most remarkable lot of clothes, some of the things needing very little changing to bring them up to the latest fashion. A new trunk and railroad ticket to a very exclusive mountain resort did the rest.

That was as far as she could play the game herself. And as the rest of it would have to be played by any chance young man who happened to have money, the odds were strongly against the success of her plan, as the war had sadly decreased the ranks of young eligibles. Yes, it must be told at last, Georgia was not going to give in and marry Dickie without one try at escaping a moneyless, luxury-less future. She knew that unless she was engaged to somebody else, Dickie would insist on an early marriage.

Of course there were some young men. No need to say why. There were many reasons why there might be, of course—physical incapacity war work, or—let it be whispered—exemption on the grounds of big business. Likely that was why Algy Van Der Tiff found it necessary to recuperate in the rare mountain air at the same time Georgia sought distraction in its restful nooks and timid lakes. But it was for other reasons that the young man seemed to find the air in Georgia's immediate vicinity at all times more to his liking than anywhere else. And before many days Georgia found herself engaged to this scion of a fine, rich old family.

She felt a pang of remorse when she thought of Dickie. Poor dear! But he'd have to get over it. He'd take it hard at first no doubt, but she'd soften it all if she could. On Monday morning, however, when she walked into the office, Dickie's place was empty. On her desk lay a letter from him.

"Dearest," it ran, "I've enlisted in the marine corps. Will be back Tuesday to say goodbye and explain everything. Perhaps we can be married right away, dear, if you'll agree."

You've heard, no doubt, that Uncle Addison out west died and left me a couple of million bucks. Won't we have a time when the war's over! Dickie!"

Georgia gasped. But her surprise was not complete. There was more in store for her. When she looked up Dickie's place was filled, and it was Algernon Van Der Tiff who filled it.

The rest is brief. Algernon was just as much surprised to find his heiress in a business office as Georgia was to see him. The consternation being mutual, the matrimonial

proposition was declared null and void.

Dickie came back next day, and Georgia tearfully made a clean breast of the whole business, and declared she'd never marry him now because she was not good enough.

But Dickie, looking splendid in his blue uniform, silenced her protests with a kiss, and the license office that day had one more certificate on its records.

FIRST IN THE NEWS-TIMES

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Nuxated Iron increases the Red Blood Corpuscles and builds up the strength, energy and endurance of delicate run-down people in two weeks' time in many instances.

Thousands of men and women are impairing their constitutions, laying themselves open to illness and literally losing their grip on health, simply because their blood is thinning out and possibly starving through lack of iron.

Dr. James Francis Sullivan, formerly physician of Bellevue Hospital (Outdoor Dept.), New York, and the Westchester County Hospital, says: "Lack of iron in the blood not only makes a man a physical and mental weakling, nervous, irritable, easily fatigued, but it utterly robs him of that vital force, that stamina and strength of will which are so necessary to success and power in every walk of life. It may also transform a beautiful, sweet-tempered woman into one who is cross, nervous and irritable. To help make strong, keen, red-blooded Americans there is nothing in my experience which I have found so valuable as organic iron—Nuxated Iron. It often increases the strength and endurance of weak, nervous, run-down people in two weeks' time." Nuxated Iron is now being used by over three million people annually, including such men as Hon. Leslie M. Shaw, former Secretary of the Treasury, and Ex-Governor of Iowa; former United States Senator and Vice-Presidential nominee, Charles A. Towne; United States Commissioner of Immigration Hon. Anthony Caminette; also United States Judge, G. W. Atkinson of the Court of Claims of Washington and others.

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The manufacturers guarantee successful and entirely satisfactory results to every purchaser or they will refund your money. Nuxated Iron is dispensed in this city by Wetick's Cut Rate Drug Store and all other druggists.

Illustration of a man sitting at a desk, looking thoughtful, with a bottle of Nuxated Iron on the desk.

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More money than in any education you can choose to acquire. Get your training now, while there is great demand for your services at premium salary.

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Make This Your "Safety-First" Resolution for the New Year

TIME vs. MONEY

YOUR SHARE OF PROSPERITY

This is an extremely practical age. Lost motion, wasted time, "shooting in the dark," lack of definite aim, are to be condemned. Young man, young woman, have you any definite plan of acquiring success, —the kind of success that insures a competency, and fills the pocketbook? Consider a business training first, because, for the time and money spent, and the net results in money-earning power it is the best education in the world for you. It will place you more surely and quickly in direct line with opportunity than any course you may take up.

Business in America at the beginning of the New Year is promised the greatest period of prosperity ever known. Storehouses are empty, unfilled orders crying for action. Production is burdened with demands at home and abroad. Money is plentiful, and everyone prosperous.

Will you get your share of prosperity? Are you in line with opportunity for promotion? If not, get a business education at once. You can progress farther now in one year than formally in three. If you are prepared. Act for self-advancement January 6, 1919.

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